

THE WAR BEGUN.

Very Exciting News
from Charleston.

Important Correspondence Between
General Beauregard, Major
Anderson and the Southern
Secretary of War.

Summons to Major An-
derson to Surrender.

Major Anderson's Refusal.

Bombardment of Fort
Sumter Commenced.

Terrible Fire from the Seces-
sionists' Batteries.

Gallant Defence of Maj.
Anderson and His
Garrison.

Brilliant Bravery of the Con-
federate States Troops.

Arrival of the Harriet Lane, Pawnee
and Another Steamer Off Charleston.

Harriet Lane Fired Into.

Fort Sumter.

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Fort Sumter.

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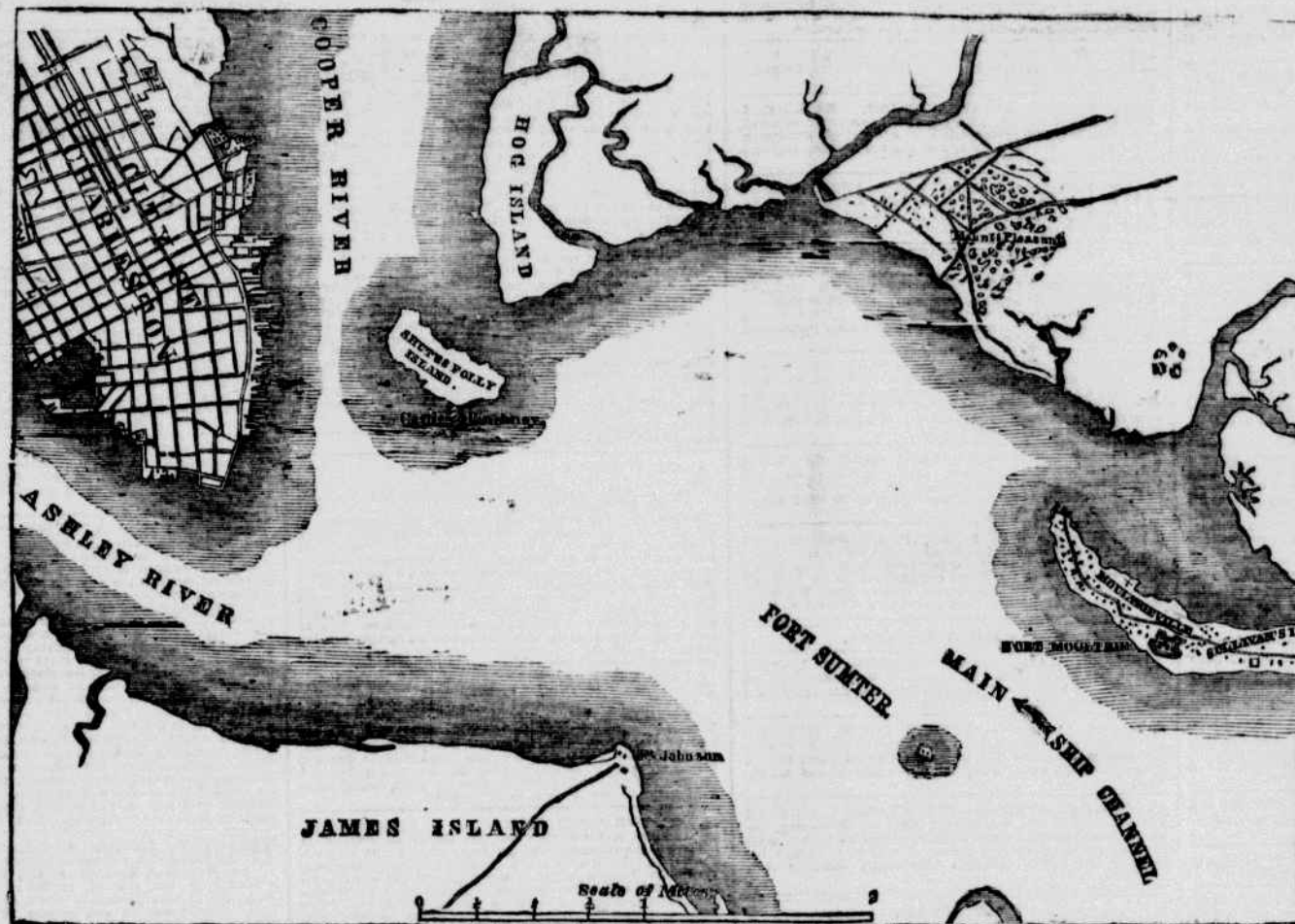
Fort Sumter.

Fort Sumter.

Fort Sumter.

THE SCENE OF OPERATIONS.

Charleston and Its Defences—Plan of the Harbor, Showing the Position of Forts Sumter and Moultrie, Cummings Point Iron Battery, Fort Johnson, the Floating Battery and Other Fortifications.



lives, and at every shot jump upon the ramparts, observe the effect, and then jump down, cheering.

A party on the Stevens battery are said to have played a game of the hottest fire.

The excitement in the community is indescribable. With the very first boom of the gun thousands rushed from their beds to the harbor front, and all day every available place has been thronged by ladies and gentlemen, viewing the solemn spectacle through their glasses. Most of these have relatives in the several fortifications, and many a tearful eye attested the anxious affection of the mother, wife and sister, but not a murmur came from a single individual.

The spirit of patriotism is as sincere as it is universal. Five thousand ladies stand ready to-day to respond to any sacrifice that may be required of them.

The brilliant and patriotic conduct of Major Anderson speaks for itself, and silences the attacks lately made at the North upon his character and patriotism.

Business is entirely suspended. Only those stores are open which are necessary to supply articles required by the army.

Governor Pickens has all day been in the residence of a gentleman which commands a view of the whole scene, a most interested observer. General Beauregard commands in person the entire operations, and thus far they have moved with the utmost system and success.

It is reported that the Harriet Lane has received a shot through her wheelhouse. She is in the offing. No other government ships are in sight up to the present moment, but should they appear the entire range of batteries will open upon them.

Troops are pouring into the town by hundreds, but are held in reserve for the present, the force already on the island being ample. People are also arriving every moment on horseback, and by every other conveyance. Within an area of fifty miles, where the thunder of the artillery can be heard, the scene is magnificently terrible.

CHARLESTON, April 12—6 P. M.
Captain R. S. Parker brings despatches from the Floating Battery, stating that up to this time only two have been wounded on Sullivan's Island. He had to row through Major Anderson's warmest fire in a small boat.

Senator Wigfall in same manner bore despatches to Morris Island, through the fire from Fort Sumter.

Senator Chesnut, another member of the staff of Gen. Beauregard, fired a gun, by way of amusement, from Mount Pleasant, which made a large hole in the parapet.

Quite a number have been struck by spent pieces of shell and knocked down, but none hurt seriously. Many fragments of these missiles are already circulating in the city.

The range is more perfect than in the morning, and every shot from the land tells.

Three ships are visible in the offing, and it is believed an attempt will be made to-night to throw reinforcements into Fort Sumter in small boats.

It is also thought, from the regular and frequent firing of Major Anderson, that he has a much larger force of men than was supposed. At any rate, he is fighting bravely.

There have been two rain storms during the day, but without effect upon the battle.

Everybody is in a ferment. Some of those fighting are stripped to the waist.

THE GENERAL PRESS DESPATCHES.

CHARLESTON, April 12, 1861.

The ball has opened—war is inaugurated.

The batteries of Sullivan's Island, Morris Island

and other points were opened on Fort Sumter at four o'clock this morning. Fort Sumter has returned the fire, and a brisk cannonading has been kept up. No information has been received from the seaboard yet.

The military are under arms and the whole of our population are on the streets. Every available space facing the harbor is filled with anxious spectators.

The firing has continued all day without intermission.

Two of Fort Sumter's guns have been silenced, and it is reported that a breach has been made in the southeast wall.

Of the nineteen batteries in position only seven have opened fire on Fort Sumter. The remainder are held in reserve for the expected fleet.

Two thousand men reached this city this morning, and embarked for Morris Island and the neighborhood.

Intercepted despatches disclose the fact that Mr. Fox, who had been allowed to visit Major Anderson on the pledge that his purpose was pacific, employed his opportunity to devise a plan for supplying the fort by force, and that this plan had been adopted by the Washington government, and was in progress of execution.

CHARLESTON, April 12, 1861.

The Floating Battery and Stevens' Battery are operating freely and Fort Sumter is returning the fire.

It is reported that three war vessels are outside the bar.

THE LATEST FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, April 12, 1861.

The firing has ceased for the night, but will be renewed at daylight in the morning, unless an attempt is made to reinforce the fort, which ample arrangements have been made to repel.

The Pawnee, Harriet Lane, and a third steamer, are reported off the bar.

Troops are arriving by every train.

IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE.

COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE CONFEDERATE SECRETARY OF WAR AND GEN. BEAUREGARD.

CHARLESTON, April 12, 1861.

The following is the telegraphic correspondence between the War Department at Montgomery and Gen. Beauregard immediately preceding the hostilities. The correspondence grew out of the formal notification by the Washington government, which is disclosed in Gen. Beauregard's first despatches.

GEN. BEAUREGARD TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

CHARLESTON, April 8, 1861.

L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War.

An authorized messenger from President Lincoln just informed Governor Pickens and myself that provisions will be sent to Fort Sumter peacefully, or otherwise by force.

P. G. T. BEAUREGARD.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR TO GENERAL BEAUREGARD.

MONTGOMERY, April 10, 1861.

General Beauregard, Charleston.

If you have no doubt of the authorized character of the agent who communicated to you the intention of the Washington government to supply Fort Sumter by force, you will at once demand its evacuation; and if this is refused, proceed in such manner as you may determine to reduce it. Answer.

L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR TO GENERAL BEAUREGARD.

MONTGOMERY, April 11, 1861.

General Beauregard, Charleston.

Telegraph the reply of Major Anderson.

L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War.

GENERAL BEAUREGARD TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

CHARLESTON, April 11, 1861.

To L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication denouncing the evacuation of the fort, and to say in reply that it is a demand with which I regret that any sense of honor and my obligations to my government prevent my compliance.

He adds—

Probably I will wait the first shot, and if you do not batter us to pieces we will be starved out in a few days.

Answer.

P. G. T. BEAUREGARD.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR TO GENERAL BEAUREGARD.

MONTGOMERY, April 11, 1861.

Gen. Beauregard, Charleston.

We do not desire to bombard Fort Sumter if Major Anderson will state the time at which, as indicated by him, he will evacuate, and agree that, in the meantime, he will not use his guns against us, unless ours should be employed against Fort Sumter.

You are thus to avoid the effusion of blood. If this or its equivalent be refused, reduce the fort as your judgment decides to be the most practicable.

L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War.

GENERAL BEAUREGARD TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

CHARLESTON, April 12, 1861.

L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War.

He would not consent. I write to-day.

P. G. T. BEAUREGARD.

CHARLESTON AND ITS DEFENCES.

The news of the bombardment of Fort Sumter by the Confederate forces, which we publish this morning, induces us to give a full description of the scene of operations, embracing the city of Charleston, its harbor and fortifications. The plans of the forts and batteries, showing the stronghold of Major Anderson and the position of the attacking forces under General Beauregard, cannot fail to interest our readers.

FORT SUMTER—THE STRONGHOLD OF MAJOR ANDERSON.

Fort Sumter is a modern truncated pentagonal fort, built upon an artificial island at the mouth of Charleston harbor, three and three-eighths miles from the city of Charleston. The island has for its base a sand and mud bank, with a superstructure, if we may so term it, of the refuse chips from several Northern granite quarries. These rocks are firmly embedded in the sand, and upon them the present fortification is reared. The island itself cost half a million of dollars, and was ten years in construction. The fortification cost another half a million dollars, and at the time of its occupancy by Major Anderson was nearly completed as to admit the introduction of its armament. The walls are of solid brick and concrete masonry, built close to the edge of the water, and without a berm. They are sixty feet high, and from eight to twelve feet in thickness, and are pierced for three tiers of guns on the north, east and west exterior sides. Its weakest point is on the south side, of which the masonry is not only weaker than that of the other sides, but it is not protected by any flank fire, which would sweep the wharf. Once landed, an entrance may, at the present state of the construction, be easily made; for the blinds of the lower embrasures, though six inches in thickness, may yet be easily blown away, and even if this was impossible, scaling ladders can reach those of the second tier, which are not protected in this manner. The work is designed for an armament of one hundred and forty pieces of ordnance of all calibres. Two tiers of the guns are under bomb-proof casemates, and the third tier upper tier open, or, in military parlance, en barbette; the lower tier for forty-two pounder paish guns; the second tier for eight and ten-inch columbiads, for throwing solid or hollow shot, and the upper tier for mortars and twenty-four pound guns. The full armament of the fort, however, had not arrived when Major Anderson took possession, on barbed wire, the lower tier for forty-two pounder paish guns; the second tier for eight and ten-inch columbiads, for throwing solid or hollow shot, and the upper tier for mortars and twenty-four pound guns. The full armament of the fort, however, had not arrived when Major Anderson took possession, on barbed wire, the lower tier for forty-two pounder paish guns; the second tier for eight and ten-inch columbiads, for throwing solid or hollow shot, and the upper tier for mortars and twenty-four pound guns. The full armament of the fort, however, had not arrived when Major Anderson took possession, on barbed wire, the lower tier for forty-two pounder paish guns; the second tier for eight and ten-inch columbiads, for throwing solid or hollow shot, and the upper tier for mortars and twenty-four pound guns. 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